



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
Christine Sinicki
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Assembly Bill 478
February 12th, 2008

Chairman Davis, thank you for hearing Assembly Bill 478. Also, I thank Mr. Gobel, former principle of Washington High School in Milwaukee, for his advocacy on this issue.

As a former school board member, I understand that a school district and its board have not only ultimate fiscal authority over property owned by schools, but believe that they also have the final responsibility for thoughtful stewardship of that property.

A district's property includes gifts made to individual schools, whether tangible, such as supplies and equipment, or monetary, for scholarships or extracurricular activities. And I understand the tension sometimes present in the donor-recipient relationship about who controls the fate of gifts one given. However, I believe it is critical for districts to remember that philanthropy is encouraged by consideration of the giver's intentions for a gift. And since alumni and their families feel loyalty to specific schools, we don't want to discourage generosity inspired by those feelings in any way.

Particularly in the Milwaukee Public Schools, we do not want to discourage giving at any level or in any way. Gifts to our schools in these tight fiscal times can make the difference between an adequate education and an enriched education for our students.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage you and your fellow committee members to pass AB 478.

Thank you.